

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Handicrafts of cane and bamboo from India are becoming increasingly popular in Western countries. Assam is an important State for manufacture of cane and bamboo handicrafts.

(b) Value of exports of cane, bamboo and wicker handicrafts products in 1976-77 was Rs. 39.89 lakhs, as against Rs. 21.69 lakhs in 1975-76.

(c) and (d). A Training and Research Institute in cane & bamboo has been set up at Agartala to develop quality handicrafts of cane and bamboo in North Eastern States. Cane and bamboo handicrafts especially from North Eastern States have been exhibited abroad and have created good impression. Measures, such as, training of craftsmen, raw material supply. Design assistance etc. for development and export of these items are proposed to be undertaken in the near future.

Take over of Hard Coke Bhatta of Selected Fatka Company, Nirsa, Dhanbad

3850. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hard Coke Bhatta of Selected Fatka Company, Nirsa, Dhanbad was nationalised along with the collieries in 1973;

(b) whether the nationalisation of selected Fatka hard coke Bhatta was stayed later on by the Calcutta High Court order to which the Government is still contesting,

(c) whether the private management now itself wants to give up its claim from Hard Coke Bhatta filing a compromise petition in the Court;

(d) whether even after that unnecessary litigation is continuing due to the delay and indecision of the Government; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the early take over of the Hard Coke Bhatta?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The party has approached the Eastern Coalfields Limited for a settlement. However, as far as the Government is concerned there is no question of settlement as under the Nationalisation Act, the property has vested in the Government.

(e) Steps are being taken to get the stay order of the Calcutta High Court vacated.

False news regarding appeal against Shrimati Indira Gandhi published in Nav Bharat, Jabalpur

3851. SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in "Nav Bharat" dated 28-10-1977 published from Jabalpur it has been intentionally published that the appeal (revision) filed by the Central Government against the release of Shrimati Indira Gandhi has been dismissed on Thursday i.e. 26-10-1977 by Delhi High Court;

(b) what action Government propose to take against this false malicious news item; and

(c) whether the matter will be sent to the Press Council, High Court or any other authority for taking suitable action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which was apparently published without credit line.

(b) The Press is free. It is for the newspapers themselves to maintain appropriate journalistic standards and correct news reportage.

(c) It is proposed to set up the Press Council shortly. It will no doubt appropriately supervise the maintenance of journalistic standards and professional ethics by newspapers.

Declaration of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta as free ports

3852. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether in view of the ex-smugglers' pledge before Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan Government propose to declare Bombay, Madras and Calcutta as free ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): Presumably, the Question refers to the pledge taken by smugglers before Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan in April, 1977 to abjure the smuggling and help the Government in its anti-smuggling operations. There is no proposal regarding declaring Bombay, Calcutta and Madras as free Ports.

मलकानी समिति की सिफारिशों की क्रियान्विति

3853. श्री युवराज : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मलकानी समिति की सिफारिशों को अभी तक क्रियान्वित नहीं किया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल) : (क) और (ख). सफाई

करने को स्थितियों पर मलकानी समिति की सिफारिशों राज्य सरकारों के ध्यान में ला दी गई थी और उन्हें स्थानीय स्थितियों के अनुसार क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है ।

Naval Policy

3854. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government have reviewed its naval policy to ensure a balance between the objectives of developing and equipping the Indian Navy for wartime requirements and also equipping the Navy with light and sophisticated ships for maritime security of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): During wartime, it is the responsibility of the Navy to protect the country's maritime interests, including those in the exclusive economic zone. Protection of our economic interests in the exclusive economic zone in peacetime, which involves primarily police functions, is the responsibility of the Coast Guard Organisation. Pending the establishment of a regular Coast Guard Organisation, an interim Coast Guard Organisation has already been set up with a few ships and patrol vessels. Proposals to equip the Coast Guard Organisation with suitable vessels to enable it to discharge its task are being formulated.

Our Navy is being continuously strengthened so as to meet the threats to our maritime interests.

The building up of the Navy and the development of the Coast Guard are being organised in a co-ordinated manner.